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# The King Benjamin Missionary Clothing Program

## News From Argentina

The past two months have been relatively quiet ones for the program. In our last newsletter, we mentioned that we had word that a young man from the province of Tucumán would receive missionary clothing through one of our coordinators. Since then, we've had word of other possibilities that we may have identified suitable coordinators in two other provinces of the country. Experience has shown that it is one thing to hear such good news, and an entirely different thing to arrive at the point where our dreams are fulfilled and we are blessing the lives of outgoing missionaries from these 'new' areas. Twenty months ago we were

functioning only in the province of San Juan, with Antonio and Virginia Ripoll serving as coordinators. Around April of 2006 we were fortunate to identify individuals who have willingly served as coordinators. Norma Ferré covers Catamarca and LaRioja; and Marcela Serrá covers San Luis. In 2007, we have identified individuals who are willing to serve a few other areas of Argentina. Eduardo Olivera is coordinator in Santiago del Estero (also covering Tucumán and Salta); and Marcelo Lezcano is coordinator in Corrientes (Resistencia). So we are setting forth a healthy foundation for our future growth in Argentina. Our purpose in hav-

ing coordinators in additional areas of the country is so that we can identify and provide missionary clothing for more of the faithful young men and women of Argentina who choose to serve a full-time mission. During my time as a full-time missionary, Elder Robert E. Wells of the Seventy used to proclaim: "We are here to bless the people." The King Benjamin Missionary Clothing Program is here to bless the future missionaries from Argentina and their families.

### One from a city, two from a family

Late in June we were able to provide missionary clothing to a young woman from a family in San Juan. Her brother left on a mission some 3 months earlier. The father is still without work. Mom and Dad and this sister visited the Ripoll home, where she received

clothing for her mission. The father said: "I don't know what we would have done without the program." The mother mentioned that without the program, their daughter would still be home, waiting for the time when the family would be able to send her out. Anto-

nio Ripoll mentioned to me how very grateful the mother is for the assistance their family has received.

As of September 31, 2007; the program has provided clothing to 15 missionaries in 2007. In the past two months we've shipped one more box of clothing to Argentina. We're tracking two or three young men in San Juan who hope to leave on their missions before the end of the year. And hope to hear of others who have the same goal in other areas.

#### If the Shoe Fits...

*Brothers (not twins) from the Los Pinos ward of San Juan were called to missions in Chile. Their parents brought them to the Ripoll home in July where they received their missionary clothing. In two recent shipments of clothing (each containing one pair of shoes), these two pair of shoes fit these two young men perfectly. They were the only shoes the Ripolls had in their inventory.*

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***"A man filled with the love of God is not content with blessing his family alone, but ranges through the whole world, anxious to bless the whole human race."***  
*Joseph Smith, Jr.*

*The King Benjamin Missionary Clothing Program collects, prepares and sends parcels of used and new clothing and distributes it at no cost to outgoing LDS missionaries from needy families in several provinces in Argentina. As of 2007, the program functions in San Juan, San Luis, La Rioja, Catamarca, Salta, Santiago del Estero, Tucumán and Corrientes. In 2006, we shipped 18 boxes of clothing to Argentina, containing some 516 clothing items. Some of the items shipped were: 45 suits, 127 white shirts, 108 pairs of dress slacks, etc.*

*We seek to partner with ex-missionaries returning to Argentina, or family members traveling to pick up a missionary, who are willing to take with them a suitcase of clothing for the program.*

